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polymer, after curing, absorbs up to about 400 times its initial dry weight in water when immersed in an aqueous environment, and desorbs water when the coating is dried.

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26. An aqueous coating composition comprising:

a superabsorbent polymer, wherein said superabsorbent polymer is selected from the group consisting of anionic alkali salts and alkali metal salts of a superabsorbent polymer;
a viscosity-modifying agent; and
a binder.

Please substitute claims 3, 5, 6, 10-11, and 20 for original claims 3, 5, 6, 10-11, and 20 as follows:

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3. (Amended) The coating composition of claim 24, further comprising a viscosity-modifying agent.

5. (Amended) The coating composition of claim 24, further comprising a lubricant.

6. (Amended) The coating composition of claim 24, further comprising a binder.

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10. (Amended) The coating composition of claim 25, further comprising a viscosity-modifying agent.

11. (Amended) The coating of claim 25, further comprising a lubricant.

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20. (Amended) The aqueous coating composition of claim 26, wherein the viscosity-modifying agent is selected from the group consisting of alkyl celluloses, acrylamide polymers and mixtures thereof.